

**El Paso E & P Company, L.P.  
Natural Gas STAR Implementation Plan  
Production Sector  
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El Paso E & P Company, L.P. (EPEP) is pleased to submit this Natural Gas STAR Implementation Plan. EPEP owns and operates natural gas and oil production wells and facilities in twelve states and the Gulf of Mexico. This document describes the technologies and practices EPEP currently uses to reduce methane emissions from our domestic production operations as well as the technologies and practices proposed to be used in the future. EPEP's past accomplishments and plan for the future includes technologies and practices consistent with existing Gas STAR Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Partner Reported Opportunities (PROs) such as vapor recovery units, gas lift technology, and electric compressors, to name a few.

EPEP's methane emission reduction activities also include special projects not specifically identified as BMPs or PROs in the Gas STAR Program. These are described more fully in this Natural Gas STAR Implementation Plan.

## **ELEMENT 1      Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

### Identify and replace high-bleed pneumatic device

There has been increased interest in several EPEP production regions in replacing existing gas driven pneumatic control systems with solar powered compressed air pneumatic systems. Tests have been performed in our ARKLATX region and plans already exist to install solar powered compressed air systems on selected platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2008, the Gas STAR Team will support these efforts by helping to identify cost-effective equipment and locations where replacement of high bleed gas driven pneumatics devices would result in significant cost-effective methane emission reductions.

### Install flash tank separators on glycol dehydrators

EPEP uses flash tank separators on glycol dehydrators at selected locations. In 2008, an effort will be initiated to inventory these installations and quantify their continuing methane emission reductions. In addition, these data will be used to identify additional potential cost-effective applications of flash tank separators on our glycol dehydrators.

### Directed Inspection & Maintenance

EPEP tested two infrared methane detection technologies as part of our preparation of this Implementation Plan. As a result of these tests, EPEP has acquired an infrared camera and will use the camera throughout EPEP's operations to facilitate maintenance activities by efficiently identifying methane releases. EPEP believes that a Directed Inspection & Maintenance program using infrared technology is a Best Management Practice for the Natural Gas STAR Program Production Sector.

## **ELEMENT 2      Partner Reported Opportunities**

EPEP has implemented several Partner Reported Opportunities in the past and will continue to implement and report the resulting methane emission reductions. As shown under "Element 3 Inventory of Past Reduction" these include:

- Green Completions
- Gas Lift Systems
- Plunger Lift Systems
- Vapor Recovery Units
- Velocity Tubing Strings
- Foaming Agents/Soap Sticks
- Electric Compressors

Many of these represent continuing emission reductions such as Vapor Recovery Units and Electric Compressors that will be reported every year. Some are single event emission reductions that will be reported only in the year in which they occur such as Green Completions. In 2008, EPEP will continue to inventory Partner Reported Opportunities already implemented.

### ELEMENT 3 Inventory of Past Reductions

EPEP began an inventory of past methane emission reductions for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006 as part of the preparation of this Implementation Plan. These past reductions include Partner Reported Opportunities as well as special projects not specifically identified as Partner Reported Opportunities or Best Management Practices in the Natural Gas STAR Program.

The Partner Reported Opportunities included in the inventory are:

Green Completions  
Gas Lift Systems  
Plunger Lift Systems  
Vapor Recovery Units  
Velocity Tubing Strings  
Foaming Agents/Soap Strings  
Electric Compressors

The special projects implemented by EPEP that resulted in significant methane emission reductions include a coal bed methane program and a pipeline leak detection and repair program. The coal bed methane program represents a reportable Gas STAR emission reduction because:

1. The methane gas is extracted from a coal seam that is actively mined. Only the production from those wells placed within the approved mine plan is reported here.
2. The wells are drilled by EPEP, all production activity is performed by EPEP, and all production equipment is owned by EPEP or rented directly by EPEP.
3. The methane gas extracted is owned by EPEP.

Since 2004, EPEP has implemented a program to proactively identify and repair leaks in the natural gas gathering system in one of our production fields with long gathering lines. Estimates of the methane that would be released if the repairs were not completed are compiled monthly.

A summary of the past emission reductions from both Partner Reported Opportunities and special projects is shown on Table 1.

not dot  
regulated  
lines

# Past reductions

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Past Methane Emission Reductions**

*Past reductions - IM wants to report everything annually - no roll up.*

all values Mcf/yr

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Partner Reported Opportunities</b>			
- Green Completions	327,500	239,500	481,000
Install Gas Lift Valves	318,200	252,700	187,200
Install Plunger Lift Systems	533,500	402,500	290,160
Install Vapor Recovery Units	429,600	269,000	165,200
Install Velocity Tubing Strings	46,800	18,700	37,400
Use Foaming Agents/Soap Sticks	18,700	46,800	486,700
Install Electric Compressors	57,200	57,200	57,200
<b>Special Projects</b>			
- Coal Bed Methane	4,703,400	3,920,500	3,470,700
Pipeline Leak Detection and Repair - 1 year	13,200	126,700	173,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,448,100</b>	<b>5,333,600</b>	<b>5,349,000</b>

*- fac STAR doesn't count this activity*

*report everything each year.*

*EPEP  
→ certifying their inventory this year*

*How many did you do?*

*How did you get the numbers?*